



Nigeria Political Fact Sheet

United States Embassy in Nigeria

MAP OF NIGERIA BY GOVERNORSHIP RULE 2011



Politics in Nigeria

- Nigeria gained political independence from Britain on 1st October, 1960.
- Nigeria operated a British model parliamentary system in 1960 to 1966.
- Nigeria returned to civilian rule after 13 years of military dictatorship and adopted a presidential system modeled after the U.S. presidential system in 1991.
- Nigeria has had an uninterrupted civilian democracy since 1999 (the longest in the country's history) with a bicameral National Assembly.

Voters Registration

- Total Voter registration in 2011 was 74 million with 40 million valid votes and 1.3 million invalid votes.

Presidential Election

- The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) emerged as the winning party with 58.89% votes, followed by Congress for progressive change (CPC) with 31.98% votes, and Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) with 5.41%.
- The south-west zone had the lowest voter turn-out for the presidential election while the south-south had the highest turn-out.
- PDP led in the south zones except in Osun state which supported CAN.
- CPC was predominant in the Northern zone except in the north-central states and Taraba state of the north-east.

Political Parties

- There were 55 registered political parties in 2011.
- The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has remained the leading political party in Nigeria with a majority of the state governors and members of the National Assembly and state assemblies.
- The party's majority diminished after 2011 general elections. This is due mainly to dissatisfaction with the party's nomination process.
- Only six out of the country's 55 political parties are represented in the Senate and/or House of Representatives.
- Nigerian political parties get funding mainly from their members, and the country's Electoral Act establishes how much individuals or organizations can contribute to a political party.

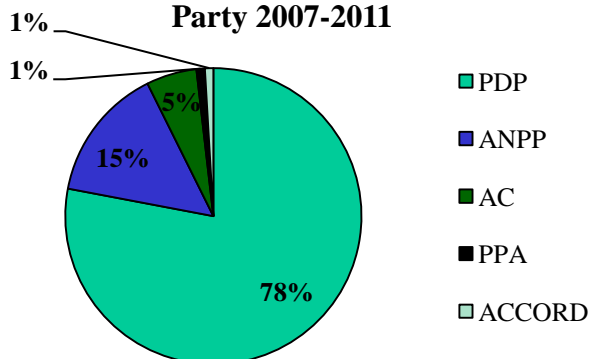
Gubernatorial Election

- 23 of the 36 state Governors in Nigeria are PDP representatives.
- The ruling PDP lost many state gubernatorial slots in the south-west zone mainly due to the absence of internal party democracy – candidates were forced on party members and in some cases party primaries were either not held or were manipulated by party officials.
- ACN with a south-west dominance, and which had only a governor in Lagos state between 2003 to 2007 got additional 6 state governors elected in the 2011 gubernatorial elections.

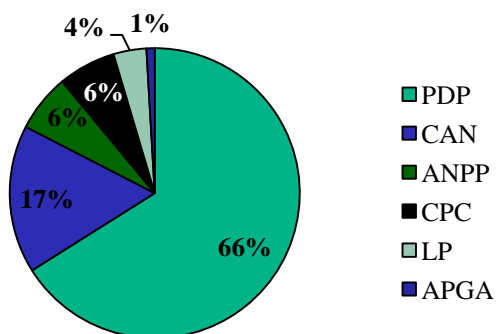
Senate

- The Senate is presided over by the President of the Senate.
- The President of the Senate is David Mark who served from 2007 to present.
- The Senate has 109 members, elected for a four-year term in 36 three-seat constituencies, representing each of the 36 states, and one seat in a single-seat constituency, the Federal Capital (FCT), Abuja.

Senate Representation by Political Party 2007-2011

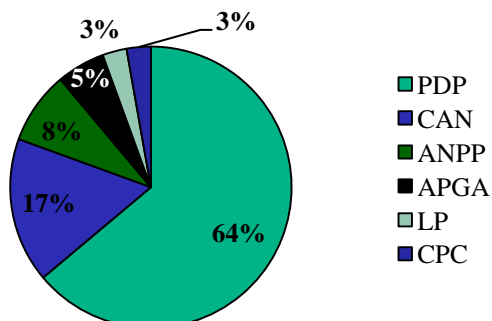


Senate Representation by Political Party 2011-2015



Governorship

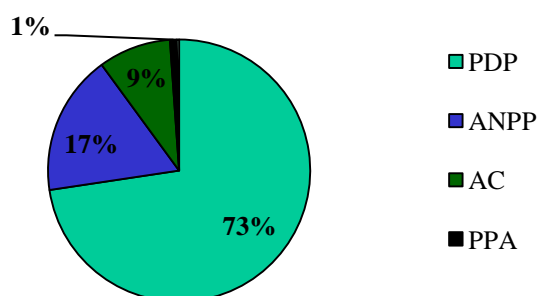
State Governors And Their Political Party Affiliations 2011



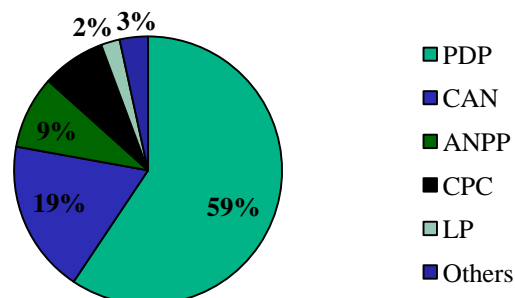
House of Representative

- The House of Representatives is presided over by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- The speaker of the House of Representatives is Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, who served from 2011 to present.
- The House of Representatives members will serve for four years from 2011 – 2015.
- The House of Representatives has 360 members, elected for a four year term in single-seat constituencies, allocated to the 36 states based on population.

House of Representatives by Political Parties 2007



House of Representatives by Political Parties 2011



- ACN emerged from the merger of former Action Congress (AC) and other smaller political parties at part of the opposition's strategy for 2011 general election.
- After the 2011 general elections, ACN emerged as the leading opposition party, overtaking the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), which had 9 governors and over 100 members in the national assembly between 1999 and 2003.
- ANPP's fortunes dwindled due to internal party leadership crisis both at the national and state levels of the party. Currently, ANPP has only 3 state governors and about two dozen members of the national assembly.